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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,531	07/03/2001	Satoshi Matsumoto	2001-0600A	9158

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EXAMINER

LEO, LEONARD R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3743

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/856,531

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Leonard R. Leo

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) g. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-13 are cancelled, claims 14-20 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “through-hole defined therein between adjoining fluid paths” in claims 18-19 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Although Figure 5 depicts this feature, the claims also require a partition as depicted in Figure 4. A figure depicting the combined features is required.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: through-holes in the partition plates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3743

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Damsohn et al.

Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Matsunaga et al (Figures 1-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga et al in view of Yuasa et al.

Matsunaga et al discloses all the claimed limitations except through-holes between adjoining fluid paths.

Yuasa et al discloses a heat exchanger comprising a plurality of stacked plates 40 (Figure 9), each plate 40 having a plurality of first passageways 65 and second passageways 66 and through-holes 61 disposed there between for the purpose of accommodating a third heat exchange medium.

Since Matsunaga et al and Yuasa et al are both from the same field of endeavor and/or analogous art, the purpose disclosed by Yuasa et al would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Matsunaga et al.

Art Unit: 3743

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Matsunaga et al through-holes between the passageways for the purpose of accommodating a third heat exchange medium as recognized by Yuasa et al.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damsohn et al or Matsunaga et al in view of Ito.

The device of Damsohn et al or Matsunaga et al lacks the plates being coated with a solder on one side.

Ito discloses a brazed heat exchanger comprising a plurality of pressed plates 13, 31, each composed of a core material with a brazing material provided on one side thereof in the stacking direction for the purpose of ease of manufacture and assembly.

Since Damsohn et al or Matsunaga et al and Ito are both from the same field of endeavor and/or analogous art, the purpose disclosed by Ito would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Damsohn et al or Matsunaga et al.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Damsohn et al or Matsunaga et al pressed plates composed of a core material with a brazing material provided on one side thereof in the stacking direction for the purpose of ease of manufacture and assembly as recognized by Ito. By definition, brazing is joining by hard solder. Further, the specific application of the bonding material is considered to be an obvious design choice producing no new and/or unexpected results and solving no stated problem. Bonding material is known in the art to have many forms: sheets, liquid, paste, wires, etc.

Art Unit: 3743

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry of a general nature, relating to the status of this application or clerical nature (i.e. missing or incomplete references, missing or incomplete Office actions or forms) should be directed to the Technology Center 3700 Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-5648.

Any inquiry concerning this Office action should be directed to Leonard R. Leo whose telephone number is (703) 308-2611.



LEONARD R. LEO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3743

June 29, 2002